

E2) for prosecution at this time. Applicants elect, without traverse, the species of β -ketothiolase and acetoacetyl-CoA reductase enzymes, with the understanding that the generic claim will be examined in the event that the species is determined to be patentable subject matter.

II. Preliminary Amendment

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once amended) [Protein fusions] A protein fusion having a formula selected from the group consisting of E1-L_n-E2 [or] and E2-L_n-E1, wherein E1 and E2 catalyze successive reactions in a PHA biosynthetic pathway and are each selected from the group [comprising] consisting of β -ketothiolases, acyl-CoA reductases, PHA synthases, PHB synthases, phasins, enoyl-CoA hydratases, and beta-hydroxyacyl-ACP::coenzyme-A transferase, in which linker L_n is a peptide of n amino acids that link E1 to E2 or E2 to E1.

2. (Once amended) The fusion of claim 1 wherein E1 and E2 are selected from the group consisting of beta-ketothiolase (phbA) and acyl-CoA reductase (phbB); phbB and phbA; PHA synthase (phaC) and phasin (phaP); phaP and phaC (1D); phaC and beta-hydroxyacyl-ACP::coenzyme-A transferase (phbG); phbG and phaC; phaC and enoyl-CoA hydratases (phaJ); and phaJ and phaC.

Please cancel claims 7-14.